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RURAL DISTRICT OF HAILSHAM



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1960



L. A. COLLINS, M.B., B.CH., D.P.M., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
HAILSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
1960



To the Chairman and Members of the Hailsham Rural District Council,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1960.

This year the incidence of infectious diseases was remarkably low. Only one case was admitted to the isolation hospital - a state of affairs which would have been hard to believe ten years ago. Although the Infant Mortality rate was higher than usual, it is hoped that this is only an exceptional occurrence.

The early completion of the North Western Parishes Water Scheme ensures that most of the district is now supplied with main water. Extensions of a minor nature only will be required in future to fill the gaps. Progress is being maintained with the sewerage schemes in their order of priority.

All members of the public health staff have worked hard throughout the year, and I am indebted to all those who have contributed in some way to the production of this report.

May I take this opportunity once again to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. A. COLLINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (part time),
also School Medical Officer for East
Sussex County Council

Dr. L. A. Collins, M.B.,
B.Ch., D.P.M., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and
Meat and Food Inspector

L. E. Scott, Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. M.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors
and Meat and Food Inspectors

M. F. Warman, Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. M.I.
R. R. Creasey, Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. M.I.
F.A.P.H.I.

Sanitary Assistant and Rodent
Operator

J. F. Stanford

Rodent Operator

R. Cousins

Chief Clerk

R. S. Oak

Clerical Assistants

Miss M. Wright
Miss P. Mephram

Official Address

Public Health Department,
Cortlandt,
Hailsham.

Tel. No. Hailsham 206

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of notifications received during the year was 178 compared with 891 for the previous year. This reduction was due to the fact that this was not an epidemic year for measles. Again the lowness of the incidence of infectious diseases is emphasised by the fact that only one case required admission to an isolation hospital during the year. This was a case of food poisoning in a boy aged sixteen years. I am therefore omitting from this report the usual table showing the number of cases removed to isolation hospital each month. Ten years ago there were thirty eight cases admitted to the isolation hospital in the course of the year.

Measles

There were only 67 notifications of measles compared with 804 cases in 1959. Major epidemics of measles tend to occur biennially.

Whooping Cough

During the year there were 37 cases of whooping cough compared with 22 in 1959. Of these, 25 cases had been immunised against whooping cough and 12 had not been immunised. The course of the disease tended to be less severe in the immunised cases. In fact, owing to the mildness of the disease, it is often extremely difficult to diagnose whooping cough and it is probable that many cases are missed.

Scarlet Fever

There were 40 cases of scarlet fever compared with 18 for 1959. The cases were very mild as has been usual for many years.

Diphtheria

Again there was no case of diphtheria during the year, there having been only one imported case during the last thirteen years. However, as there have been outbreaks in other parts of the country, it is important that the high immunisation state of the child population should be maintained.

Poliomyelitis

There were no cases of poliomyelitis during the year.

Dysentery

All the ten cases of dysentery were of the Sonne type. A small outbreak occurring in January on the female side of Hellingly Hospital accounts for six of these. Three cases were reported in one family of infants admitted to Oak Hall Nursery. No further cases arose from this source. There was one other sporadic case in Polegate.

In addition several convalescent cases reported from other places to be entering this district were followed up until shown to be free from infection. Some nine other suspicious cases, referred by general practitioners to this department, were investigated and shown to be free from infection.

Food Poisoning

There was no connection between the three cases of food poisoning occurring during the year.

The first case was a boy aged fifteen years from East Hoathly, who was admitted to the Isolation Hospital on 1st June and found to be infected with *Salmonella typhi-murium*. As he was employed in a butcher's shop the family contacts were investigated and found to be free from infection. He was discharged from hospital while he was still a carrier of *Salmonella typhi-murium*. He was kept under surveillance and not allowed to return to work until six consecutive specimens submitted to the Public Health Laboratory had proved him free from infection.

The second case was a woman aged thirty who was taken ill the day after arriving in this district from an address in London. The infecting agent in this case was *Salmonella Heidelberg*.

The third case was a boy aged six years from Willingdon, who was found to be infected with *Salmonella typhi-murium*. Investigations of his family revealed that his mother and father were free from infection but that his sister aged fourteen years was a symptomless carrier of *Salmonella typhi-murium*. The children were kept under surveillance until shown to be free from infection.

Tuberculosis

There were six new cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified during the year compared with two for 1959. Four of these cases were over forty five years of age.

This small fluctuation in numbers is of no significance. There has been a gradual decline in the number of cases during the last ten years and the six cases may be compared with a total of forty seven cases notified in 1950.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

1958	Vaccinations	318	Re-vaccinations	164	Total	482
1959	Vaccinations	299	Re-vaccinations	136	Total	435
1960	Vaccinations	362	Re-vaccinations	209	Total	571

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Although the administration of the diphtheria immunisation scheme is now centralised with the County Council, I still personally conduct all the diphtheria immunisation clinics in the district. During the year regular clinics were held at Heathfield, Hailsham and Polegate and occasional clinics at Alfriston, Arlington, Broad Oak, Chiddingly, Eastdean, East Hoathly, Hankham, Hellingly, Herstmonceux, Hooe, Laughton, Maynards Green, Ninfield, Pevensey, Punnett's Town, Selmeston, Vines Cross, Waldron and Willingdon.

The annual return submitted by the County Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health for this district is given below.

Age on 31.12.60 (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 1960	1-4 1956-1959	5-9 1951-1955	10-14 1946-1950	Under 15 Total
Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1956-1960	196	1,629	1,893	2,041	5,759
Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1955 or earlier.	-	-	366	610	976

Section 47

Although many cases of aged persons, living in insanitary conditions, have been brought to my attention it has not been necessary to take any formal action under the above act.

Section 50

It was not necessary to deal with any cases under this section of the National Assistance Act during the year under review.

CANCER OF THE LUNGS

There were twenty deaths due to cancer of the lungs compared with twenty nine in 1959. However, this small fluctuation in numbers when dealing with a small population is of no significance. The number of deaths due to lung cancer throughout the country is still increasing. Although it is definitely known that there is a causal relationship between cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung, the smoking habits of the public in general seem to remain the same. Indeed it can hardly be expected that public health propaganda should be able to battle successfully against the advertising potential of the tobacco firms. In my opinion, it is most unfortunate that many of these advertisements are directed towards teenagers, suggesting that there is something manly and romantic about the smoking of cigarettes. When once the smoking habit has developed it may be difficult to give it up, but it should be possible to dissuade the young from ever starting the habit.

VITAL STATISTICS

The corrected death rate was 12.2 compared with 11.3 for 1959 and 11.5 for the whole of England and Wales.

The corrected birth rate was 12.6 compared with 15.2 for 1959 and 17.1 for the whole of England and Wales.

It is regrettable that the infant mortality rate was as high as 32.2. This is the highest figure for very many years. It compares with the figures of 16.4 for 1959 and 21.7 for the whole of England and Wales. Admittedly with the small population involved a slight increase in deaths produces a large order of increase in the mortality rate, but I feel that fifteen infants dying under one year of age is an unfortunately high number for this district. Of these, eight cases were directly attributable to congenital malformations and most of the others due to difficulties at birth or prematurity. As it has been shown that german measles in the mother is a cause of certain congenital defects, so research may reveal other infections and environmental conditions of the mother to be a cause of congenital malformations. It is hoped therefore, that in future, more causes of infant deaths may be found to be preventable.

STATISTICS

Area in acres	94,668
Census population (1951)	36,916
Population estimated to middle year	41,700
Number of inhabited houses	14,545
Rateable value	£566,527
Sum represented by penny rate	£2,308.4s.4d.

Total deaths per 1,000 population (not corrected)	15.7
Comparability factor	0.78
Total deaths per 1,000 population (corrected)	12.2
Senile mortality as percentage of total deaths (65 & over)	78.4%
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	Nil

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	435	217	218
Illegitimate	31	15	16
	—	—	—
Total Live Births	466	232	234
	—	—	—

Live births per 1,000 population (not corrected)	11.2
Comparability factor	1.13
Live births per 1,000 population (corrected)	12.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	6.7%

<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	5	1	4
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	—	—	—
	6	1	5
	—	—	—

Stillbirths per 1,000 live and stillbirths 12.7

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	12	7	5
Illegitimate	3	1	2
	—	—	—
	15	8	7
	—	—	—

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births 32.2
 Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births 27.6
 Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births 96.7

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	9	5	4
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	—	—	—
	10	5	5
	—	—	—

Neo Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births) 21.5

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	8	4	4
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	—	—	—
	9	4	5
	—	—	—

Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	19.3
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	31.8

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Infantile Mortality</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
Hailsham Rural	12.6	32.2	12.2
England & Wales	17.1	21.7	11.5

CASES NOTIFIED OR ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL AND TOTAL DEATHS

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	40	-	-
Whooping Cough	37	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	67	-	-
Dysentery	10	-	-
Pneumonia	12	-	-
Erysipelas	6	-	-
Food Poisoning	3	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-
Other observation cases	-	-	-

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS

Notifiable Disease	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-24 yrs	25 yrs & over	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	2	8	18	7	2	-	40
Whooping Cough	3	2	3	3	2	22	1	-	1	37
Measles	-	5	5	3	10	38	4	-	2	67
Dysentery	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	6	10
Pneumonia	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	12
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	6
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64 years	3	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
65 and over	-	1	-	-	1	2	1	-
TOTAL	3	3	-	-	2	4	1	-

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	4
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	17	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	11
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .	37	20
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-
16. Diabetes	2	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	38	56
18. Coronary disease, angina	75	39
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	9
20. Other heart diseases	42	70
21. Other circulatory diseases	14	18
22. Influenza	-	1
23. Pneumonia	20	16
24. Bronchitis	17	8
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	5	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	5	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	6	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	4	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	20	29
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	1
34. Other accidents	11	7
35. Suicide	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	2	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	339	315
	<hr/>	<hr/>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Main water is supplied to the District by two Statutory Water Undertakings, namely (1) the Bexhill Corporation, and (2) The Eastbourne Waterworks Company. The Bexhill Corporation supply water in the parishes of Hellingly (part), Herstmonceux, Hooe, Ninfield, Warbleton (part) and Wartling whilst the Eastbourne Waterworks Company supply water to the remainder of the district. Regular analyses of the water supplied by both Undertakings showed that the water continued to be of a high standard of quality.

The last pipe under the North Western Parishes Scheme was laid on the 18th February and this completed approximately 44 miles of water main. As main laying did not commence on the scheme until the 31st March, 1959 the contractors should be congratulated in completing the scheme in less than eleven months compared with the estimated time of one year. In connection with this scheme a reservoir with a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons was constructed at Windover, Wilmington and brought into use during the year. This reservoir ensured that water under pressure could be supplied in all the parishes served by the scheme.

At the request of the Council eighteen extensions of the main were carried out to serve further properties in need of adequate and wholesome water supplies. These extensions involved the laying of a further 12 miles of main. Two of the extensions were in the parishes of Alciston and Litlington to replace unsatisfactory estate supplies. All of these extensions were formerly considered to be impracticable at reasonable costs and were only made possible by co-operation from the various owners who made capital contributions so as to reduce the liability to the Council.

The year has thus been one of great achievement and reflects the firm intention of the Council to bring main water to as many houses as possible in the more rural parts of the district. There are however, still a few small groups of houses where main water is not yet available and it is possible that further extensions will need to be carried out in the future, but the problem of unreasonable cost must first be overcome either by capital contributions from the house owners or by increased government grants.

The Emergency Water Scheme whereby main water is transported to householders in need by means of an 800 gallon water tanker continued to operate but on a diminished scale as and when main supplies became available. During the year some 431,000 gallons were delivered to householders in various parts of the area.

Extension of Mains

Eastbourne Waterworks Company

In addition to the mains laid under the North Western Parishes Water Scheme and the extensions referred to above the following lengths were laid in the parishes of Arlington, Eastdean, Friston, Hailsham, Heathfield, Hellingly, Horam, Pevensey, Polegate, Westham and Willingdon and generally in connection with new building development:-

579 yards of 2" main
1,054 yards of 3" main
2,946 yards of 4" main
309 yards of 5" main
1,770 yards of 6" main
1,382 yards of 7" main
11 yards of 9" main

DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPLIES

The following table details the distribution of piped supplies and from which it will be seen that approximately 86.5% of the population is provided with main water.

Parish	Estimated Population Supplied by Public or Private Main	No. of houses supplies		
		By Public Main	By Stand Pipe	By Private Main
Alciston	99	1	-	38
Alfriston	541	210	-	-
Arlington	265	106	-	-
Berwick	156	35	-	30
Chalvington	90	32	-	-
Chiddingly	358	138	-	-
Eastdean	977	410	-	-
East Hoathly	297	119	-	-
Folkington	53	22	-	-
Friston	259	104	-	-
Hailsham	5,498	2,103	-	-
Heathfield	3,005	1,034	-	-
Hellingly	2,632	620	-	-
Herstmonceux	1,521	524	-	-
Hooe	240	95	-	-
Horam	1,472	508	-	-
Jevington	122	10	37	-
Laughton	182	61	-	-
Litlington	112	42	-	-
Lullington	28	10	-	-
Ninfield	1,014	361	-	-
Pevensey	2,363	1,159	-	-
Polegate	4,917	1,967	-	-
Ripe	55	18	-	-
Selmeston	62	21	-	-
Waldron	2,341	842	-	-
Warbleton	637	236	-	-
Wartling	406	140	-	-
Westdean	60	22	10	-
Westham	1,919	672	-	-
Willingdon	4,178	1,607	-	-
Wilmington	215	71	-	-
	36,074	13,300	47	68

Drainage and Sewerage

During the year steady progress was maintained in the modernisation of existing small sewage works and the provision of new sewerage schemes and it is with some satisfaction that I am able to report upon the following.

Work on the construction of a sewage purification plant and new sewers for the parish of Alfriston started at the latter end of the year and it is thought that completion will be effected early in 1962.

The combined sewage purification works for Polegate and Willingdon were substantially completed during the year and brought into use. These works were necessary to deal with the additional flow from the rather extensive development in these two parishes.

Amended drawings were submitted to the Ministry for grant and loan sanction to provide sewers and sewage works for the Windmill Hill area and following approval by the Ministry of the scheme went out to tender towards the end of the year.

A scheme was prepared to deal with 27 houses at Spring Hill, Punnetts Town, Warbleton where nuisance and pollution of streams were being caused by the unsatisfactory drainage to the various houses. The scheme comprised gravitational sewers and a pumping station to pump the sewage into the existing sewer at North Street, Punnetts Town and thence to the Vines Cross Sewage Works. It is hoped that a start will be made on the actual works in 1961.

Further progress was also made in the preparation of a sewerage scheme for the parish of East Hoathly but it is not thought that the scheme will be completed and ready for submission to the Ministry for grant and loan sanction until at least 1962.

Amongst works carried out by direct labour has been the construction of a new settling tank, filter beds and sludge beds at the Broad Oak Sewage Works at Heathfield and also the construction of new sludge beds at Ghyll Road, Heathfield. Improvements were also effected at the sewage works at Gardner Street, Herstmonceux.

Removal of Night Soil

The removal of night soil in the parish of Alfriston is still carried out by a local contractor and this service must continue for at least another 18 months until such time as the sewerage scheme is completed and ready for use. The work has been carried out expeditiously and well and no complaints have been received from the general public regarding any nuisance from this service.

Public Cleansing

Refuse collection throughout the district continued as in former years, i.e. a weekly collection in the parishes of Alfriston, Hailsham, Pevensey, Polegate, Westham and Willingdon and a fortnightly collection in the remainder of the district by a fleet of Dennis Vehicles.

During the year an eleven year old side loading refuse vehicle was replaced by a Dennis Continuous Loading Paxit Mark III Refuse Collection Vehicle with a body capacity of 32 cubic yards and powered by a B.M.C. 5.1 litre Diesel Engine and at the end of the year the fleet consisted of two Dennis Paxits (capacity 32 cubic yards) one Dennis Paxit (capacity 18 cubic yards) and two ten year old side loaders (capacity 10 cubic yards) together with a fourteen years old Dennis side loader fitted with a dual purpose body. The labour force, including the Foreman Mechanic and the driver of the Bray Mechanical Shovel which operates on the Refuse Tips, comprised twenty six men.

In October the Council gave consideration to the extension of the weekly collection of refuse to the remaining parishes in the Rural District and decided that the weekly collection of refuse should be extended to the parishes of Eastdean, Friston, Hellingly, Herstmonceux and Ninfield as from 1st April, 1961 subject to the delivery of a further Dennis Continuous Loading Paxit Major.

The building development in the southern part of the district reached its peak with 536 new houses being completed during the year and this development which totalled approximately 3,500 houses in the last ten years has put a great strain on this service which now has one less vehicle and two less labour force than ten years ago. This reflects good credit on the manual employees who have worked exceedingly well. The cost of the service for the year ended 31st March, 1960 amounted to £17,535, i.e. the equivalent of a rate in the £ of approximately 8½d. This represents a cost to the average size house of less than 6d. per week.

During the year approximately 7,321 tons of refuse were collected, i.e. an average of 9.62 cwts per 1,000 head of population per day.

Every effort has been made during the year to tidy up the countryside by collecting articles of junk which had been deposited in the hedgerows and on grass verges. Free collection of accumulations of old refuse and junk were also given to many farmers and householders.

Refuse Disposal

Broad Farm Tip at Hellingly, which is approximately in the centre of the district, was brought into use on 1st January for refuse from all parts of the district with the exception of the northern parishes of Heathfield, Horam and Waldron. The refuse from these latter parishes is still being disposed of at Ghyll Road Tip, Heathfield, thus saving the relatively long hauls to Broad Farm Tip, Hellingly.

Broad Farm Tip consists of two artificial ponds and before tipping commenced it was necessary to carry out drainage works to remove the water. Refuse is disposed of by semi-controlled tipping and the Bray four wheel drive mechanical shovel has been of good use in this work. No manual labour is now used on the tips.

A third tip at Mill Lane, Hellingly and formerly an old gravel pit is still in use and following further excavations of gravel in the near future tipping space will become available for a further five years.

Maintenance Depot

Due to the difficulty of obtaining the necessary facing bricks the replacement of the corrugated iron walls of the workshop could not commence during the year but it is to be done early in January, 1961.

The Foreman Mechanic was kept fully employed on the maintenance of the fleet of vehicles and due to his efforts breakdowns or mechanical failures whilst the vehicles were on the road were negligible.

District Salvage Scheme

Salvaging of paper from the refuse tip was commenced in the early part of the year so as to utilise the services of the former tip man until July when he reached the age of 65 years. His employment as a tip man became redundant when the central tip at Broad Farm, Hellingly was brought into use. In addition rags and non-ferrous metals were salvaged wherever possible.

It became quite clear by July that the salvaging of paper from the tip was uneconomical due to the relatively high cost of labour and the low prices obtainable for paper.

The following quantities were salvaged and disposed of for the amounts shown.

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts</u>	<u>Value</u>
Waste paper	74	12	£372. 19. 4d.
Non-ferrous metals	1	-	55. 18. 7d.
Rags	3	11	64. 6. 9d.

Cesspool Cleansing

Three Dennis vehicles all fitted with Diesel Engines are employed on this service. One vehicle fitted with a 1,000 gallon tank operates in the parishes of Heathfield, Horam and Waldron and the cost of the service is met by a special rate levied in these parishes.

The two other vehicles which are fitted with 750 gallon tanks empty the cesspools in the remainder of the district and charges are made of £1. for the first load and 12/6d. per subsequent load or part load removed at the same time of emptying. This scheme is practically self supporting and for the financial year ended 31st March, 1960 it was only necessary to make a contribution from the General Rate Fund of £102.

This service is much appreciated and assists considerably in the prevention of nuisance from overflowing cesspools in those parts of the district where no public sewer is available. Since the advent of Improvement Grants many country cottages formerly without proper drainage, have been modernised and provided with cesspools and during the year it was necessary on many occasions to work overtime to cope with the number of requests for this service.

Difficulty was experienced with the disposal of cesspool contents in view of the persistent wet weather which prevented the vehicles crossing the fields. Generally the contents are disposed of on agricultural land or woodland remote from the highway, houses or streams.

Details of the work carried out by these vehicles are as follows:-

	<u>Cesspools</u>	<u>Loads removed</u>
Heathfield, Horam and Waldron	1,540	2,019½
District Scheme	2,255	4,242½

Flood Damage

Following the continued heavy rainfall, flooding occurred in several parts of the district in November and again in December but this flooding was mainly confined to roads, fields and gardens.

However, three houses in Hellingly Village, four houses at Horam and one at Polegate were flooded with about one foot of water. Assistance was given in the removal of carpets and furniture which had become saturated for drying at the old laundry drying room at Hellingly Hospital.

Housing

The Council's building programme for 1960 consisted of twelve houses, four one bedroomed flats and four old people's bungalows for slum clearance purposes. Unfortunately it was not possible to commence the erection of these dwellings until the autumn and by the end of the year only five houses and four flats had been completed. In consequence the slum clearance programme was somewhat retarded but nevertheless steady progress has been maintained resulting in fourteen unfit dwellings being demolished, ten houses closed and ten families being re-housed.

With the annual increases in costs of repairs quite a number of the older rent-controlled dwellings are deteriorating due to the inadvisability of spending relatively large sums of money equivalent to many years of rent on necessary repairs. It would seem that more houses within the district will need to be included in future slum clearance programmes as unfortunately only a few owners of rent controlled dwellings can be persuaded to take advantage of Improvement Grants.

There has been a marked increase in the purchase of the old unfit cottages possessing "a wealth of oak beams and pleasant architectural features" by persons of substance who expend large sums of money to provide themselves with a country retreat. The working classes cannot compete in this sphere as many of these older cottages change hands at high prices irrespective of their condition and no doubt the restriction of house development in the more rural areas is a cause of the inflated purchase price of dwellings situated in pleasant country surroundings.

During the year 99 applications were received for Discretionary Grants and of this number 84 were approved, five refused, nine withdrawn and one still under consideration. The total amount of grants involved was £24,029. which averages therefore approximately £286. per dwelling. Of the 84 Discretionary Grants approved, 29 were in respect of agricultural service cottages, sixteen in respect of rent controlled dwellings and 39 in respect of owner-occupied houses. Repayment with interest was made in respect of four Improvement Grants made in former years. Owner-occupiers of houses where main water and drainage are already available have taken advantage of Standard Grants and during the year the Council gave approval to 25 applications for such Grants.

Two applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957 were received and it is quite obvious that in this area owners of the poorer types of property are not taking advantage of the provisions of the Act regarding permitted rent increases and are preferring to receive a low rent with little or no expenditure on repairs.

It does not appear that great strides will be made with the modernisation of hundreds of rent controlled dwellings even with the aid of Improvement Grants in view of the small rent increases permitted when modernisation has been effected and it seems apparent that a better inducement must be offered to landlords if they are to be

persuaded to improve the rent controlled dwellings.

There is still a great demand for houses to let within the area for workers in the lower income range and the sharing of homes and the overcrowding that does exist cannot be remedied without the provision of more Council houses.

Details of the applications received under the Rent Act, 1957 and the action taken are as follows:-

PART 1 - APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

(1)	Number of applications for certificates	...	...	...	2
(2)	Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	...	...	1
(3)	Number of decisions to issue certificates	...	...	...	1
	(a) In respect of some but not all defects	...	...	...	1
	(b) In respect of all defects	...	...	...	Nil
(4)	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	...	Nil
(5)	Number of undertakings refused by the Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	...	Nil
(6)	Number of certificates issued	...	...	...	Nil

PART 11 - APPLICATIONS FOR CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATES

(7)	Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	...	...	...	Nil
(8)	Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	...	...	...	Nil
(9)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants objections	...	...	...	Nil
(10)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	...	...	...	Nil

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses demolished during the year as a result of formal or informal procedure	14
Number of houses closed under Section 17(1) of the Housing Act, 1957	10
Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	1
Number of families re-housed by Local Authority from houses the subject of Demolition or Closing Orders	10
Number of houses made fit after formal action under Sections 9 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	4
Number of houses made fit under Section 24 of the Housing Act, 1957	5

CARAVAN SITES

The advent of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 during the year was welcomed as local authorities were given greater powers to secure that all caravan sites whether residential or holiday sites were properly equipped and run.

A survey of this district on the 29th August, 1960, the operative date of the Act, revealed that there were 1,121 caravans dotted throughout the area.

By the end of the year the Council had issued Licences in respect of 45 sites, whilst 77 applications were still under consideration.

The larger caravan sites were already provided with modern toilet blocks equipped with water closets, showers and most main services and with the exception of a few small points complied with the Model Standards issued by the Ministry. The medium sites of 20 to 65 caravans did however need some improvement. Site operators, are proving very co-operative and it is thought that by 1962 all caravan sites within the area will be of a high standard.

Gipsies have, from time to time, proved to be a problem due to their habit of parking their caravans on waste land or common land where sanitary accommodation and water supply is generally lacking. The only remedy has been to require their removal when no doubt they encamp again in the adjoining district for a brief spell.

Details of the Licences issued under the new Act are as follows:-

Number of Sites	28	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Caravans on Site	1	2	4	5	6	10	15	20	38	40	42	65	150	300

Milk and Dairies

As a result of the spread of the areas served by the larger dairies, a number of grocers have started to carry supplies of milk for the use of their customers and this trend is shown in the number of retailer-producers and distributors registered, viz. 59, an increase of twelve over the previous year.

There appears to be a decrease in the number of sources from which supplies of farm bottled T.T. milk are drawn by the local retailers, this type is the only raw milk now being sold in the area.

A summary of the results of samples obtained from distributors is set out below. All the samples are examined at the Public Health Laboratories, Brighton.

<u>Biological Examination</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>
Infected with M.tuberculosis	-
Infected with B.abortus	2
Infected with B.melitensis	-
No result - Guinea pig died	2
Satisfactory	33
	—
	37
	—

Methylene Blue Test

	<u>Raw Milk</u>	<u>Pasteurised</u>
Satisfactory	28	10
Unsatisfactory	2	-
	—	—
	30	10
	—	—

In milk from two sources, one outside the area, B.abortus was isolated. Seventy-four quarter samples were taken from nineteen cows at the local farm but it was not possible to find the culprit.

This negative result is often obtained even if return visits are made to take quarter samples from cows which are "dry" at the previous visit. In the other case the appropriate local authority was informed.

There has been no increase in the automatic milk vending machines using cartons, the one existing machine has been satisfactory.

Food Inspection

There is no doubt that 1960 showed the greatest advance for many years in the facilities and conditions at the slaughterhouses used by the local butchers as a result of the need to comply with the Hygiene and Prevention of Cruelty Regulations by the end of the year.

Following on the meeting in December, 1959 with the local butchers and other parties interested, the Council were able in January to report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food that one slaughterhouse complied with the requirements and that six more would be improved to that standard and two would cease to function. These would be adequate to meet the existing and probable future needs of the area. The Council recommended and the Minister agreed that the construction regulations should apply to all slaughterhouses in the district as from 1st January, 1961.

All the slaughterhouses were brought up to the required standard and in some instances virtually complete re-construction was undertaken and seven slaughterhouses were licenced during December for the ensuing year. There is no doubt whatsoever that conditions have improved and ease of working for the employees has resulted and the owners are to be congratulated on their efforts.

During the transitional period, routine slaughtering took place at nine slaughterhouses licenced for the year and as in previous years, killing not being completed until after office hours. This, of course, means overtime by the Meat Inspectors who also had to work at weekends as a result of the very rapid increase in the throughput at the slaughterhouse first licenced last year.

None of the eight slaughterhouses licenced on the 1st January were used for the slaughter of horses and the only knackers yard in the district licenced for this purpose ceased to operate, the owner having alternative premises in another area.

Approval for the only premises used as a Certification Centre under the Government's Fatstock Guarantee Scheme was withdrawn in September but up to that time 47 certificates in respect of 217 pigs were issued by the Meat Inspectors acting as Certifying Officers.

In addition to the routine meat inspection, visits are regularly made to general food premises, many of which are now selling poultry, meat and fish products from frozen food cabinets. Whatever one's views may be on "quick frozen" foods, there is no doubt that the poultry on sale are prepared far more hygienically than many of those bought direct from "farm" sources. Inspections are made of food on sale at the two weekly markets in the district and also to a large poultry servicing station where some 135,000 birds were dealt with during the year.

The number of broiler houses in the area is very large but of the million or so birds produced in the district, most are dealt with in an adjoining area.

The use of pre-packed foods, including vegetables appears to continue to spread, and the erection of new shops is having a marked effect on improving conditions of food premises.

Two complaints of foreign bodies in bread were referred to the authority in whose area the producing bakery was situated.

The Council issued two final warnings regarding multiple contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act and Hygiene Regulations by a baker at two of his premises and also to a hawker for failing to inscribe his name on his vehicle.

Contraventions of Food Hygiene Regulations

Insanitary conditions of walls etc.	...	...	...	7
Food displayed less than 18" from ground	...	...	...	2
Inadequate hand washing facilities	...	...	...	1

Summary of Inspections of Food Premises

	Number in District	Total Number of Inspections Made
Bakehouses	15	40
Butcher's Shops	29	168
Baker's Shops	20	24
Cafes, Snack Bars and Canteens	75	55
Fish Shops	12	112
Greengrocers	22	58
Grocers and General Stores	141	94
Hawkers	15	9
Public Houses and Guest Houses	101	41
Sweet Shops	35	14
Ice Cream Sellers (plus 58 catering establishments)	138	58

MISCELLANEOUS UNSOUND FOOD CONDEMNED

<u>Foodstuff</u>	<u>Weight in lbs.</u>
Fruit	20,552 $\frac{1}{4}$ +
Meat (other than home killed)	408 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fish	159 $\frac{1}{2}$
Miscellaneous	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/>
	21,147 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
	<hr/>

+ Includes 20,400 lbs of imported bilberries

Meat and Poultry Inspected

The effect of the first full year's operation of the slaughterhouse for the wholesale trade is shown in the number of carcasses inspected in 1960, viz. 10,703, made up of 5 bulls, 239 steers, 354 cows, 642 heifers, 785 calves, 3,208 sheep, 5,468 pigs and 2 kids. This is an increase of 4,628 carcasses but as the extra are mainly "smalls" the estimated weight has only risen by 570,416 lbs to 1,595,560 lbs. Of this quantity it was found necessary to withhold 18,085 lbs as unfit for human consumption. Included in this figure are the following carcasses:-

1 steer
8 cows
3 heifers
12 calves
22 sheep/lambs
11 pigs
1,107 poultry (various)

It is gratifying that all unsound meat, with certain exceptions must be stained or sterilised before leaving any slaughterhouse or knackers yard.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and
Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs Kids	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	886	354	797	3,229	5468	-
Number inspected	886	354	785	3,210	5468	-
<u>All diseases, except Tuberculosis & Cysticercki</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	4	8	12	22	9	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	143	96	5	48	155	-
Percentage of Number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticercki	16.6	29.4	2.2	2.2	2.9	-
<u>Tuberculosis only -</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	2	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	2	-	-	-	80	-
Percentage of Number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	0.2	-	-	-	1.5	-
<u>Cysticercosis -</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrig- eration.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Rodent Control

The number of minor infestations of rats showed an increase but in the main it has been just a year of routine work with residents taking more and more advantage of the free service offered to occupiers of private dwellings for both rats and mice. The old problem of educating householders in good planning of compost heaps and chicken runs still exists.

Considerable time is still being spent in dealing with mice infestations which show very little sign of diminishing from year to year, school canteens being particularly vulnerable to this pest.

Food establishments are kept under regular observation and any such premises requiring treatment are given priority over routine work.

The regular inspection and subsequent treatment where necessary of refuse tips and sewage works has kept these lands free of rats.

No 10% test baiting of sewers was carried out in view of the nil results obtained from such tests undertaken in 1959.

Occupiers of agricultural premises are becoming more rat conscious and show an increasing readiness to engage the services of commercial destruction firms on a contract system or when infestations are of a minor nature, carry out their own treatment with ready mixed warfarin baits now on the market.

It was not necessary to serve any Statutory Notices under Section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Number of properties inspected (including re-inspections)

Non-agricultural	5,468
Agricultural	691

Number of infestations found (Rats and Mice)

Non-agricultural	(a) Major 130
	(b) Minor 506
Agricultural	(a) Major 4
	(b) Minor 16

Number of treatments (including re-treatments)

Non-agricultural	698
Agricultural	4

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

Agriculture, (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

As was the case in the preceeding year extremely little time has been available from other duties for the inspection of factories and work places subject to these Acts. Although no formal action was necessary, informal action was taken in a number of instances.

No action regarding lack of sanitary accommodation on agricultural premises was found necessary.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Housing Acts and Rent Act	318
Housing Act re-inspections	578
Complaints	152
Public Health Nuisances	121
Public Health re-inspections	147
Offensive accumulations	42
Keeping of animals, birds, etc.	46
Drains and sewers	183
Drains tested	10
Closet accommodation	19
Verminous premises dealt with	11
Infectious diseases	26
Rooms disinfected	15
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	411
Pollution of watercourses	109
Water sources	278
Public cleansing	1,118
Water analyses -	
Biological : Satisfactory 15 Unsatisfactory 15	30
Cesspool emptying	79
Rats and Mice destruction	979
Swimming Pools	-
Schools	9
Markets	67
Milk and dairies	67
Factories, workshops, etc.	88
Smoke observations and visits	8
Slaughterhouses	1,381
Knackers yards	-
Meatshops, Fish and Fruit Shops, etc.	338
Grocers and General Stores	94
Bakehouses	40
Bakers Shops	24
Catering Establishments	55
Ice Cream Sellers	58
Sweet Shops	14
Hawkers Premises and vehicles	9
Public Houses and Guest Houses	41
Poultry Packing Stations	68
Housing Applicants	521
Mosquitoes, Wasps, Flies, etc.	185
Miscellaneous	260

7,999

APPENDIX

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1960 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF HAILSHAM IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

PART 1 of the ACT

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	28	46	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	193	125	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	221	171	-	-

2 - Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (a) Insufficient (S.7)	3	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	1	-	-	-
Total	8	4	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Section 110 & 111)

Nature of Work (1)	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c) (2)	Section 110			Section 111	
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecu- tions (7)
Wearing) Making Apparel) etc. Cleaning and Washing	4	-	-	-	-	-